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Celebrating the Dream

By OSSN Mercedes Meadows

How many of us have fallen off track with our New Years resolutions? Don't feel guilty because it happens to the best of us. It's only the second month in the year so now is as good a time as any to start again. Since our last newsletter, we visited several liberty ports including Manama, Bahrain, Aqaba, Jordan and Eilat, Israel.

In Bahrain, we hosted representatives from the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Bahrain Air Show reception in the ship's hangar bay.

We wrapped up the month of January with a Black History Month presentation about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The diversity team put together a wonderful presentation about Dr. King and his legacy and his triumphs. Looking at Dr. King's legacy makes you wonder how he did it. How was it that Dr. King was able to fight peacefully for so long? How is it that he had a dream and committed to that dream? If Dr. King were around to see the year 2014, what would he say?

We as the American people now have an African-American president. We have integrated schools, churches, and neighborhoods. The dream isn't over just yet, and we still have far to go as the human race. But, when you look around and see ethnicities working together for one common goal you think nothing of it because it's actually pretty normal in today's era.

But how many people fought to make that happen? How many civic demonstrations took place so that we can all work together as one? It took years and much perseverance from many people in the past to get to where we are today. We should take some of that courage that Dr. King and the other revolutionaries displayed

and apply it to our everyday lives. So often we sell our selves short by saying that something's too hard or it will take too long. Think of how long it took for us to be where we are today. Black History Month is not just for African-Americans, but for all cultures. It remind us that there is power in numbers and to never give up regardless of the

circumstances. With that in mind, hold on to your New Year's resolution and never give up on any goal you set out to achieve. 🇺🇸



Photo by MC3 Joey Bishop

Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Jason Medaris shares information about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a Black history month diversity presentation.

Celebrating Black History Month with **YNC Eulala White**



Q) Why is it so important to acknowledge and celebrate black history?

A) African-Americans were oppressed and enslaved for hundreds of years, so it's important to know our history and celebrate our accomplishments, milestones and legacies. It's also important to share with other cultures that may be oblivious to our history.

Q) What's your most positive memory of black history?

A) Attending President Barack Obama's Inauguration in 2009.

Q) Why is slavery the most talked about topic when it comes to black history?

A) The same reason the Holocaust is talked about. When Africans were forced on a ship to America, they were forced into slavery. So, our 'Black History' in America began as a slave, therefore you must know your history to gain a better understanding of yourself. When an entire race is enslaved and treated like animals for more than 200 years with the consent of the government, I think that's a topic people will never forget and will continue to discuss.

Q) What African-American is your role model?

A) My grandmother, but if you're referring to a celebrity I would say Oprah.

Get to know the CPR1 leadership **Commodore Malcolm Potts**

Q) When you were a young junior officer, did you ever see yourself being the Commodore one day?

A) I did not see myself as a Commodore. I just enjoyed flying and leading Sailors in defense of our nation. I continued to work hard and was selected to lead a helicopter squadron and then to be a Commodore.

Q) How would you describe the Commodore's position in the Navy?

A) I am responsible for a naval fighting force that's ready to win at sea or land.

Q) What has been your proudest moment thus far of this 2013/2014 deployment?

A) Chopping into C5F and all three ships going immediately to work.

Q) How do you keep your Sailors so motivated?

A) You need to recognize that people have different goals and motivations. The key to leadership is to find those goals and motivations and help reinforce them.

Q) What's your advice for those that want to advance professionally and personally?

A) To advance professionally and personally. Set your sights on your goals and don't quit.

Q) What's the part of this duty do you find the most enjoyable?

A) Building a great team and watching them succeed.



Blazing the trail with LT Tibanelli

PAGE 3

By Lt Theresa Donnelly

From leaving the turmoil of a war-torn nation following the break-up of the Soviet Union, to now teaching thousands of Navy and Marine Corps operators in the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (BOXARG) the international law of armed conflict, Lt. Givi Tibanelli, a Navy Judge Advocate, is on an eight-month deployment practicing a unique and specialized form of his profession.

Emigrating at the age of 10 from the country of Georgia, Tibanelli says his experiences witnessing lawlessness and corruption propelled him to direct his studies to law and policy as well as contribute to his new country.

"I've always held the rule of law in high regard and how those laws were implemented throughout the world," said Tibanelli. "Serving my country was a way for me to give back to the United States for the opportunity that this country provided my family," he said.

Giving back to others has always been a part of Tibanelli's life. While attending University of California, Hastings College of Law, Tibanelli volunteered with the "Hastings to Haiti Partnership," an organization that was devoted to advancing the rule of law and human rights in Haiti by supporting the country's legal education and engaging in human rights advocacy. He helped the group through fundraising for annual working trips to the country, hosting clinics and performing legal research.

"The whole idea there was that if you were to empower and plant a root in the legal education sector, to these students who would one day be the future judges and prosecutors in that country, they could influence change by affecting the way laws are implemented and enforced," said Tibanelli.

After graduating from law school, Tibanelli chose to join the Navy because he wanted to serve and practice operational law. Operational law encompasses multiple legal areas such as international treaties, the law of the sea, rules of engagement, environmental law, as well as administrative law and ethics. It also involves cooperation and coordination with host nation governments and U.S. embassies to successfully implement and enforce liberty policies.

Operational legal counsel is crucial in the Navy, which deals with complex missions and politically sensitive topics such as disputed territories, strait transits and multiple Status of Forces (SOFA) agreements with host nations. Following his studies in law school, Tibanelli served for approximately a year and a half as trial counsel (prosecutor) at Navy Base Ventura County. While stationed there, he honed his skills practicing law in the courtroom, but his ultimate goal stayed intact. Recognizing his interests and potential,



Tibanelli was nominated by his commanding officer at the Navy Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) to leave his first tour early and report as the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) for Commander, Amphibious Squadron (CPR1). CPR-1 is composed of three amphibious assault ships that carry Marines and aircraft in order to perform missions across the full spectrum of military operations.

"My experiences here have been very positive. I've enjoyed it both professionally and personally. I particularly enjoy operational law because it's something that is unique and can't be practiced outside the Navy," said Tibanelli. 🇺🇸

Dr. King's dream comes true with CTR2 Nichole Murphy

Q) What is your cultural background?

A) My mom is Scandinavian/German, and my dad is Black.

Q) What is one of the hardest struggles you face being biracial?

A) People always assume things about you. In my teenage years and even now, on every job application is a race section. I always marked other. I feel like it doesn't matter what your background/ethnicity is as long as you can do the job.

Q) Being a mixed child do you feel you are a living product of Dr. King's dream and why?

A) I do indeed. Dr. King's dream was for all to be equal. No single race should be better than another, and I feel like I am proof of that. I never wanted my race/ethnicity to hinder me in my endeavors in life, and neither did my parents.

Q) What if anything do you have to prove by being biracial and why?

A) Being biracial is a gift. You have to love yourself, and know what you are capable of. I always felt like I needed to prove that I was better than myself - meaning I only aim to be better than I used to be. I don't feel like I need to prove anything to anyone other than in knowledge and success.

Never be afraid to be who you are. Don't let what people think of you or people's perceptions of you - correct or incorrect - prevent you from being as successful as you can be. It doesn't matter if you're black, white, green or purple - be the best you, you can be and make yourself proud. My dad always told me, you can let someone outsmart you, but NEVER let someone outwork you.

PHIBRON FORWARD

Guess your shipmate

- Q) Favorite food?
A) Italian pasta
- Q) Favorite sports team?
A) Chicago Bears
- Q) Birthday?
A) Sept. 27
- Q) Where are you from?
A) Cleveland, OH
- Q) Favorite movie?
A) Love Jones & The Vow



Answer on page 5



“PHIBRONIANS” DEC/JAN Birthdays



Did you know...

Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) America (LHA 6) is a new amphibious assault platform specifically designed for the Marine Corps in order to reposition and effectively return Marines to their roots as a sea-going force. The ship is in the final stages of construction in Pascagoula, Miss. The ship's mission will be to embark, transport, control, insert, sustain and extract elements of Marine air-ground task forces, and support forces by helicopters and tilt-rotor aircraft. PCU America will soon be assigned to CPR1.

PHIBRON FORWARD

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Master Chief Machinist's Mate Shane Lazio poses for a photo with foreign



CPR1 N3 staff during divisional photos

Port Visits

Bahrain



Photo by SN John Murphy Ramos

The Bahrain Air Show



Floating in the Dead Sea, Israel.

Jordan



A castle carved in the side of the mountains in Petra, Jordan

Israel



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem.

Get to Know MMCM Shane Lazio



Check out MMCM Lazio on a camel in Petra, Jordan.

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Shane Lazio joined the Navy in December 1984. Just in case you don't want to do the math, that is 29 years of service.

"I couldn't have done it without my family's support," said Lazio. "I have had success because they understand and have supported me through my career."


He said although they support him, it is still tough being away from them. "I ended up raising everyone else's kids except mine. But my wife and I decided that our kids were our responsibility to raise. So she stayed home with them."

Lazio considers himself a "Carrier Sailor." In his 18 years of sea duty, USS Boxer is his first Amphibious platform.

"It's great to see the amphibious side of the Navy and the blue and green team working together. There is not a more powerful force working together," said Lazio. If he could live out one wild adventure in the Navy, MMCM Lazio described it like this: "I want to ride in an F/A-18 Hornet while breaking the sound barrier with the song *Bad to the Bone* playing in the background," said Lazio.

"Then I would eject out with my M9 in hand parachute down and blow up the mines in the water during a Steel Beach picnic with my family watching."

If you have met Master Chief before you will know that this fits his personality to a tee. "You have to live every day like it's your last." The dad in him sneaks out as he adds, "by doing safe and responsible stuff."

Lazio has had his fair share of hard knocks. When he first checked aboard USS Carl Vincent, he knew it was going to be a challenging job assignment. But, as he let his hard work and actions speak for themselves he slowly gained his leadership's respect and they asked him to take over the shop. Although it was tough at times and stressful he never gave up. "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," said Lazio. "There are givers and takers. I am a giver. I've learned that you only get somewhere because someone helped you get there." 

Guess your shipmate answer:
YNC Eulala White